

My dear Dr. Gray  
Your kind & sym-  
thetic words are very precious to me as  
you have loved & appreciated my hus-  
band. I feel as if he was called away  
from unfinished work; although he had  
attained nearly the four score years of this  
world; his father having lived to be  
97 I believed that he too had many  
years of happiness in store - I know  
how earnestly he desired to complete  
the Manual of Mosses & I fear that  
the labor he spent upon the microscope  
& his sketches (often from eight to ten  
hours a day) was too much for his brain.  
I have left the little table with the mosses  
Mr. James was at work upon remain as  
it was when the Master called him, the  
envelopes & boxes he last used. I thought  
Mr. Desquerens might require, ought I not  
to put them away together?  
I shall be very glad if Mr. Desquerens  
will make up his mind to go on with the

work I will do the little in my power to  
aid him - by looking up & forwarding the  
material he may need.

I spent two or three hours this morning  
in Mr. James' attic study & was surprised  
to find some boxes of named mosses,  
there when I supposed the whole collection  
was contained in two wooden cases which  
had been removed to the new house.  
These may be the material which  
the Desportes speaks of as necessarily  
to be placed in Sullivant's collection  
in the Herbarium - If I could put the  
mosses together that are needed for the  
works now while we are running, it  
would be a great convenience to me  
afterwards I fear I shall have little  
heart to go over them again -

I have sent a catalogue of Mr. James'  
books & a memorandum of his collections &  
microscopes to Mr. Watson, as I had him  
appointed one of the appraisers of the estate -  
hoping that he might have your expe-  
rience to aid him in making a val-  
uation, your own time being too val-  
uable to impose such a task upon you  
as that of a legal appraiser -

I remain your deeply yr & Mrs. Esary feel for me in this blow.  
With love & affection upon us, & I shall be glad to see her near when  
even she may find it convenient to come in the afternoon.

I have been so distressed by the stroke as to be quite unable to  
collect my thoughts to write, until this afternoon, & you & Mr. Watson  
are the first persons I have addressed. I hope this note is not very  
incoherent. I remain you will make a good <sup>big sheet</sup> ~~book~~'s mean to saving  
& pardon the imperfections of dictation & writing.

With much love to Mrs. Esary from your affectional friend  
Esdras James -

94 Brattle St -

March 4/52